

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

9 OCT 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Ecuador

The leftist general strike which began last week is posing a serious threat to President Velasco, with rioting and sabotage frequent in some districts. Velasco is having to rely on the military and security forces to control the situation, but the latter's support is apparently contingent on abandonment of his leftist, pro-Cuban foreign policy. Velasco will probably break relations with Cuba and move against the Ecuadorean Communist party, and has asked assistance from the US.

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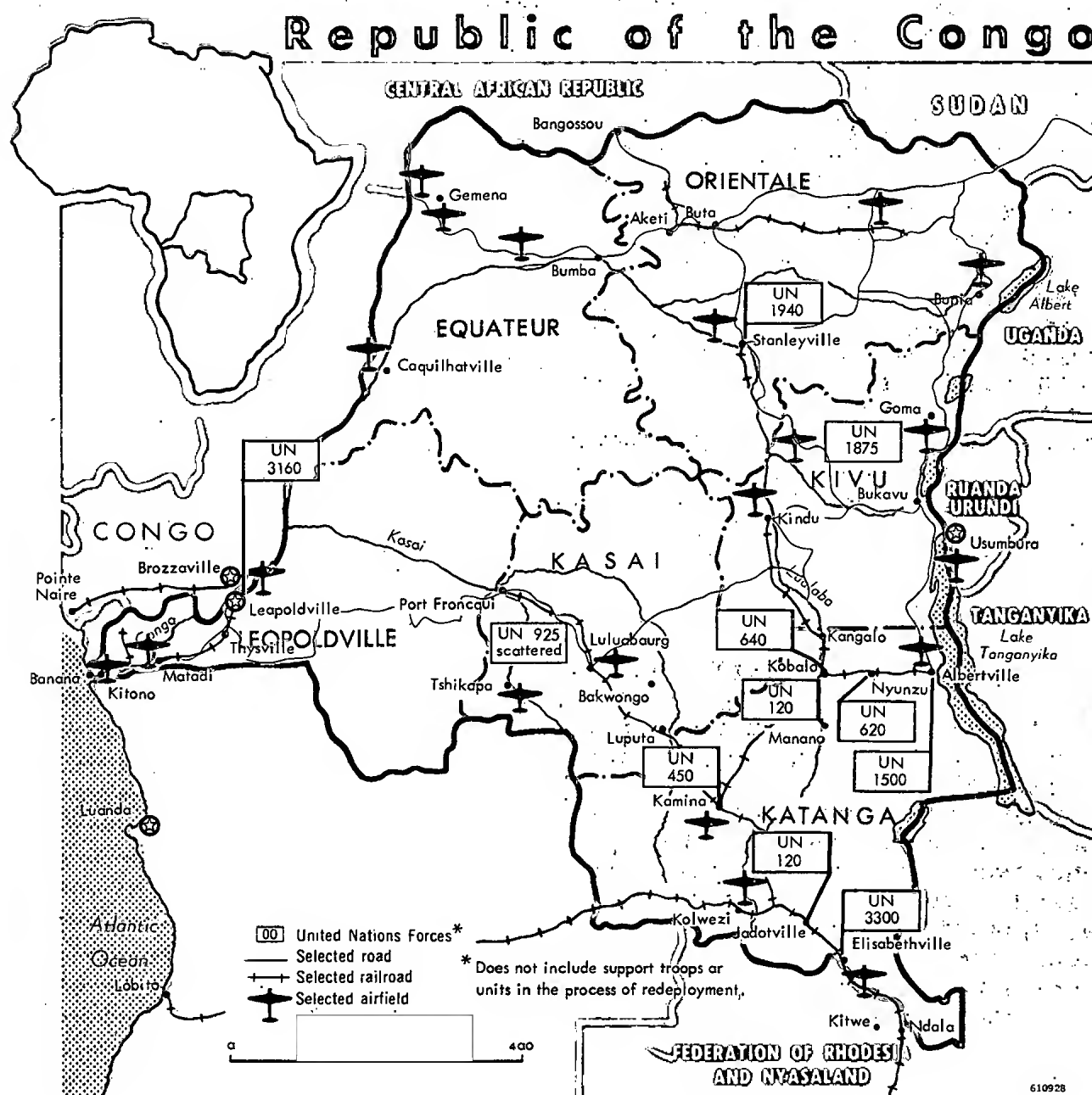
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3. Soviet weapons tests yesterday

A. An ICBM fired from Tyura Tam toward the Central Pacific failed at or shortly after launch.
B. The nuclear test at Novaya Zemlya took place in the area where megaton-yield devices are usually tested, but only yielded about 25 kilotons.

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4. Guerrilla activity in South Vietnam



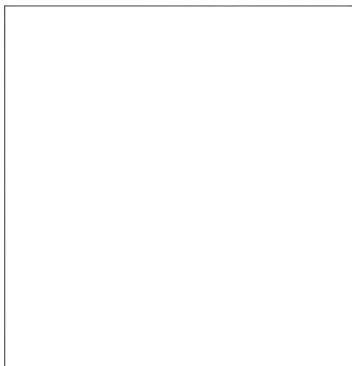
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Messages of the last few weeks show comprehensive planning to expand areas of Communist control. The first phase of a "break-through"--not further defined--is to be completed by Tuesday, with the second phase opening 10-15 days later and the third 20-30 days after completion of the second.

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5. Stalemate in Katanga continues



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Both sides are trying to strengthen their military positions, with the UN stronger in the northern part of the province and Tshombe stronger in the south. Tshombe is getting a steady stream of white volunteer reinforcements through Rhodesia, but his Katanga troops and gendarmerie are defecting in considerable numbers to the UN. We see some possibility that what began as a native Katangan movement (with Belgian support) may be pushed aside by die-hard white supremacy forces, changing the character of the struggle. Meanwhile the UN is apparently implementing the first phase of its contingency plan for operations in Katanga. Jet fighters have been moved forward to Luluabourg, from which they can cover the Kamina base and make attacks at extreme range against Tshombe's base at Kolwezi.

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NOTES

A. There have been no further major developments reported in the Syrian situation. Ambassador Stevenson reports that general Arab recognition will probably come today or tomorrow. Saudi Arabia has already recognized.

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B. Deployments for the Warsaw pact maneuvers continue throughout East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and the western USSR.

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C. French [] have finally made some progress in identifying and neutralizing OAS elements in Algeria. They expect an OAS rising [] remain loyal. []

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D. The meeting of the Laotian princes which accepted Souvanna as premier went very smoothly []. The crucial question of cabinet seat allotment will not be discussed until after Souvanna goes to Luang Prabang tomorrow for confirmation by the King.

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E. U Thant [] had the active support of the Arabs, Niger, Venezuela, Chile, El Salvador, Peru, Australia, Denmark, and Greece, and that no delegation had expressed opposition. []

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F. Adenauer has told Ambassador Dowling that agreement on a coalition with Mende is "99 percent" complete. There will be no change in foreign or defense policy, and Brentano and Strauss will stay on in their present jobs.